

## CLAIMS

[6000] I claim:

- 1 1: A hand-operated jointed control lever assembly comprising:
  - 2 (a) a lever body mounted for pivoting movement about an axis from a released  
3 position to an actuated position; said lever body having a rearward first fulcrum  
4 surface and a rearwardly-extending lip proximate said first fulcrum surface;
  - 5 (b) a lever arm having a forward edge portion and a second fulcrum surface  
6 proximate said forward edge portion, said first fulcrum surface and said second  
7 fulcrum surface being adapted for mating engagement when said forward edge  
8 portion is engaged under said lip; and
  - 9 (c) tensioning means for applying a contraction force between said first fulcrum  
10 surface and said second fulcrum surface that biases said first and second  
11 fulcrum surfaces into mating engagement.
- 1 2: The control lever assembly as recited in claim 1, in which said first and second  
2 fulcrum surfaces are arcuate.
- 1 3: The control lever assembly as recited in claim 2, in which said first and second  
2 fulcrum surfaces are respectively cylindrically concave and convex.
- 1 4: The control lever assembly as recited in claim 1, in which said tensioning means  
2 comprises:
  - 3 (a) a tensioning cable passing through said first and said second fulcrum surfaces,  
4 said tensioning cable having a first end and a second end, said first end being  
5 secured to said lever arm; and
  - 6 (b) a tensioning spring interposed between said second end of said tensioning cable  
7 and said lever body.

1           5: The control lever assembly as recited in claim 4, in which said tensioning spring is  
2 a compression coil spring disposed within a cavity formed within said lever body, and said  
3 tensioning cable passes axially through said coil spring.

1           6: A hand-operated jointed control lever assembly, said assembly comprising:  
2           (a) a lever body mounted for pivoting movement about an axis from a released  
3 position to an actuated position; said lever body having a rearward first fulcrum  
4 surface and a rearwardly-extending lip proximate said first fulcrum surface;  
5           (b) a lever arm having a forward edge portion and a second fulcrum surface  
6 proximate said forward edge portion, said first fulcrum surface and said second  
7 fulcrum surface being adapted for mating engagement when said forward edge  
8 portion is engaged under said lip; said first and second fulcrum surfaces being  
9 respectively cylindrically concave and convex;  
10          (c) a tensioning cable passing through said first and said second fulcrum surfaces,  
11 said tensioning cable having a first end and a second end, said first end being  
12 secured to said lever arm; and  
13          (d) a tensioning spring interposed between said second end of said tensioning cable  
14 and said lever body.

1           7: The control lever assembly as recited in claim 6, in which said tensioning spring is  
2 a compression coil spring disposed within a cavity formed within said lever body, and said  
3 tensioning cable passes axially through said coil spring.